

Abstract

This theoretical study attempts to reflect the general problematic of modern society in complexity, the gradual constitution and development of estranged being as well as the contemporary effort to interconnect being as an integral whole. The study also contains an analysis of altered states of consciousness, which are understood as a certain means to view the world as integrated. We use the notion of consciousness to define the altered states of consciousness.

The structure of the thesis is divided into five chapters. While the first chapter is focused on description and analysis of alienation and other negative aspects of modern society, the second chapter is based on this reflection of the crisis of western society. Its subject is the work of several scientists who contribute by their works to a qualitative change of the mechanistic and materialistic conception of the world and who promote holistic approach to reality. The key topic of the third chapter is phenomenon of consciousness and interdisciplinary theories of consciousness. We deal also with the qualitative altered states of consciousness, that offer some potential. The fourth chapter concentrates on the history and methods of research of altered states of consciousness and delineates their basic characteristic and their functions. The last chapter divides the altered states of consciousness into categories and gives their detailed description. The thesis ends with final conclusion which brings an integration of the findings above mentioned with the accent on the first and second chapters.